



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

15-003-003

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

APR 5 2012

Energy In Depth – Northeast Marcellus Initiative  
100 Fourth Street  
Honesdale, Pennsylvania 18431

Dear Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Thank you for your February 28, 2012 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding EPA's actions in Dimock, Pennsylvania. EPA has conducted sampling of wells serving approximately 60 homes in Dimock and is notifying residents, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), and the general public about results as expeditiously as possible. EPA's goal continues to be providing Dimock residents with the best available data on the quality of their drinking water.

EPA has regulatory and response authorities under various federal statutes, and our actions – based on site-specific facts – are guided by the principle of protecting public health. EPA maintains independent legal authority to act and has used that authority with discretion at hundreds of sites across the country in situations where residents could be left without safe drinking water and there is evidence that spills or releases of hazardous substances have occurred.

EPA explained the basis for its actions in Dimock in its January 19, 2012 Action Memorandum, which describes the potential threats to public health, actions to be taken and estimated costs. The Action Memorandum and other documents may be found at the Dimock Residential Groundwater Site website: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/states/pa.html#dimock>. As described in the Action Memorandum, EPA noted that the data available prior to the action was incomplete and of uncertain quality; thus, it was important for EPA to collect its own samples and assure that the data being used for decisions is of the highest quality.

Results from the first week of sampling in Dimock were posted to the above-noted website on March 27, 2012. Further sampling results will be posted on this website as they become available. In addition to reviewing the sampling data from Dimock, EPA is reviewing literature on the range of naturally occurring levels in this area of Pennsylvania, as we are aware that well water quality in certain areas of Pennsylvania is influenced by naturally occurring elements.

We appreciate your interest in this matter. We would be pleased to notify your organization of the results of our sampling effort as additional data becomes available.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Borsellino, Director  
Hazardous Site Cleanup Division